

ORIFICE SEALING PHYSICAL BARRIER

Abstract

The present invention is a physical barrier for an orifice in a panel member which includes a plastic carrier and a patch adapted to adhere to the carrier and the panel member. The patch is comprised of a heat-activated material. The patch is joined to a portion of the plastic carrier and encapsulates a peripheral edge of the plastic carrier. Joining the patch and the plastic carrier preferably employs use of traditional vacuum-forming techniques. The plastic carrier is attached to the panel member and the patch is heated to generally flow. The patch cools and forms a seal between the interface of the plastic carrier and the panel member while a portion of the patch is disposed between the plastic carrier and the panel member filling any gap therebetween.